

First Presbyterian Church, Arkansas City - 140 Year Anniversary

For 14 decades First Presbyterian Church, Arkansas City has been serving their community by sharing the reality of the gospel. The church is a survivor of the depression, two world wars, severe economic blows to the community, and more. The church was organized Jan. 12, 1873 in a vacant building at 207 S. Summit by the Rev. A. R. Naylor, acting under commission from the Presbyter of Indianapolis. It was placed under the care of the Presbytery of Emporia. The edifice at the current location, 321 S. First, was dedicated in 1915, has undergone various renovations.

The church claims numerous "firsts." Ark City's first vacation church school in 1936, was open to city children, ran five mornings a week for a month. The city's first Boy Scout Troop came in the 1920s and the earliest Camp Fire Girls group was also Presbyterian-sponsored. By 1935 the church was sponsoring five different scouting organizations and even had a youth orchestra. The area's first radio ministry aired Jan. 1, 1958 at 1280 AM, KSOK and continues today.

Longtime member Marilyn McDowell shows the Rev. Danny Daniel a 1935 picture of herself taken when she was in the nursery at the First Presbyterian Church. She is among current members who've belonged to the church for 50+ years.



First Presbyterian Church, Arkansas City, recognized members with 50+ years of church membership.



Back Row L-R: Jack Givens, Steve Ross, Rex Marsh, Tim Harmon, Otis Morrow, Jan Spangler, Susie Woodworth, Marge Curlless
Front Row L-R: Marjorie Williams, Ed Gilliland, Margaret Gilliland, Neva Bahruth, Virginia Roberts, Luther Parman

On The Wind

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*Presbytery Meeting
Saturday, February 16, 2013
First Presbyterian Church
El Dorado, KS*



On January 4-6, 2013, fifty four young adults attended the Young Adult Winter Retreat at Westminster Woods Camp.

The young adults attending the **Young Adult Retreat** at WMW enjoyed fellowship, relaxation, and a great game of noodle hockey! This retreat focused on worship and providing the worship leadership were Jesse Roberts, Leah Frees and others. Matt Jaderston taught from Philippians with an emphasis on Humility. This retreat included college students and young adults with some newly married couples and even a couple of babies. The retreat had a relaxed feel with lots of time set aside for getting to know each other or simply catching up.

Brotherhood Pre-School

Decorating
the lovely
Christmas
tree with Ms.
June Hicks.



Decorating,
licking your
frosting knife,
and then
finally getting to eat the yummy sugar cookies!



Creating a paper
Christmas tree
with sparkling
ornament stickers.

Finding the Buried Treasure

Jesus once told a story about a guy who found some buried treasure in a vacant piece of land. It seems nobody else knew this treasure was there: but it was a very fine treasure indeed, and it filled his heart with joy. So he sold everything he had in order to buy that piece of land.

People sometimes read this story and think, “Okay, I get that the story is supposed to be about me. Jesus is the treasure, and I am supposed to be like that man: I am supposed to recognize that Jesus is so valuable that I willingly sacrifice everything in order to follow him.”

I believe that’s almost right. The story is indeed about us, and the man and the treasure represent us and Jesus. But I suspect we’ve accidentally flipped the identification. Perhaps we should identify Jesus as the man who found something in the dirt: and discover that we are the treasure he found.

Jesus gave up all he had, in order to buy something that didn’t look like it was worth all that much. He looked at the glory of rainbows and mountains and fields of waving wheat: and he thought, “All of creation: that’s cool stuff.” He looked around at the beauty of heaven, and rejoiced in the Father’s goodness. And then he looked at you, at the treasure hidden in your soul. Nobody else could see it: but he found it.

He looked at you and said, “Yes!” He said, “All these other things are so fine: but it’s you that I love. You are the treasure that I want.” And all the splendor of heaven seemed small compared to the joy in his heart, as he laid aside his glory in order to come and redeem all the lost sinners, you and me and all the world.

On the days when nobody – not even you – can see anything worthwhile at all in your soul, remember this story: the story of Jesus who gave up everything to buy a treasure like you.

Jay Ayers

Remember - Bring your **clean-up buckets** to the February Presbytery Meeting and join the “**Bucket Brigade.**” PSK Disaster Response Team’s challenge: **200 buckets!!**

